

Claims

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A method of treating obesity, the method comprising the step of administering to an obese patient or a patient at risk of becoming obese a therapeutically effective amount of a compound that is a neurotensin receptor ligand.
- 10 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the neurotensin receptor ligand is a neurotensin-1 receptor ligand.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the neurotensin receptor ligand is a neurotensin-2 receptor ligand.
- 15 4. The method of claim 1 wherein the neurotensin receptor ligand is a neurotensin-3 receptor ligand.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein the ligand is an agonist.
- 20 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the ligand is an antagonist.
7. The method of claim 1 wherein the neurotensin receptor ligand is a neurotensin-1 receptor agonist.
- 25 8. A method of treating obesity, the method comprising the step of administering to an obese patient or a patient at risk of becoming obese a therapeutically effective amount of a compound that is a selective neurotensin-1 receptor agonist.
9. A pharmaceutical composition comprising:
- 30 a) a compound that is a neurotensin receptor ligand; and

b) a second compound useful for the treatment of obesity, diabetes, sexual dysfunction, atherosclerosis, insulin resistance, impaired glucose tolerance, hypercholesterolemia or hypertriglyceridemia.

- 5 10. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 9 wherein the neurotensin receptor ligand is a neurotensin-1 receptor agonist.

- 10 11. The method of claim 9 wherein the second compound is a β_3 -adrenergic receptor agonist, a cholecystokinin-A agonist, a monoamine reuptake inhibitor, a sympathomimetic agent, a serotonergic agent, a dopamine agonist, a melanocyte-stimulating hormone receptor agonist or mimetic, a melanocyte-stimulating hormone receptor analog, a cannabinoid receptor antagonist, a melanin concentrating hormone antagonist, leptin, a leptin analog, a leptin receptor agonist, a galanin antagonist, a bombesin agonist, a neuropeptide-Y antagonist, a thyromimetic agent, 15 dehydroepiandrosterone or an analog thereof, a glucocorticoid receptor agonist or antagonist, an orexin receptor antagonist, a urocortin binding protein antagonist, a glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonist, or a ciliary neurotrophic factor.

- 20 12. A kit that comprises:

- a) a first pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound that is a neurotensin receptor ligand;
- 25 b) a second pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound that is useful for the treatment of obesity, diabetes, sexual dysfunction, atherosclerosis, insulin resistance, impaired glucose tolerance, hypercholesterolemia or hypertriglyceridemia; and
- c) a container for the first and second compositions.

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13. The kit of claim 12 wherein the neurotensin receptor ligand is a neurotensin-1 receptor agonist.

15. A method of treating diabetes, sexual dysfunction, atherosclerosis, insulin resistance, impaired glucose tolerance, hypercholesterolemia or hypertriglyceridemia, the method comprising the step of administering to a patient having or at risk of having, diabetes, sexual dysfunction, atherosclerosis, insulin resistance, impaired glucose tolerance, hypercholesterolemia or hypertriglyceridemia a therapeutically effective amount of a neurotensin receptor ligand.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein the neurotensin receptor ligand is a neurotension-1 receptor ligand.